

Be Smart. Be Ready.

Free Reproductive Health Services in North Carolina Facts for Providers about the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver

What is the Medicaid Family Planning Waiver?

The Medicaid Family Planning Waiver, or “BE SMART” program, is designed to reduce unintended pregnancies and improve the well-being of children and families in North Carolina. Family planning/reproductive health services are provided to eligible men and women whose income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level.

Who can enroll with Medicaid to provide Family Planning Services under the BE SMART program?

- Ambulatory surgery centers
- Birthing centers
- Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists
- Federally Qualified Health Centers
- Laboratories
- Local health departments
- Nurse practitioners
- Nurse midwives
- Outpatient hospitals
- Physicians
- Rural health clinics

For information on enrolling as a North Carolina Medicaid provider, refer to the Division of Medical Assistance (DMA) website at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/provenroll.htm>.

What services are covered under the BE SMART program?

The following services are covered through the waiver when provided as part of a family planning visit:

- Annual and periodic office visits (including counseling, patient education, and treatment)
- Specific laboratory procedures (i.e., pap smears, pregnancy tests)
- FDA-approved and Medicaid-covered birth control methods, procedures, pharmaceutical supplies, and devices
- Screening for HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus)
- Screening and treatment for specific Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
- Voluntary sterilization (in accordance with federal sterilization guidelines)

Note: There is no co-payment for services received through the BE SMART program.

When services are not covered under the BE SMART program and the provider does not offer affordable or free care, refer patients to their local department of social services (DSS) for a list of primary care “safety net” providers.

Who can sign up for the BE SMART program?

Women ages 19 through 55 and men ages 19 through 60 whose income is at or below 185% of the federal poverty level and who are:

- U.S. citizens or qualified aliens;
- Residents of North Carolina;
- Not incarcerated;
- Not pregnant; and
- Not permanently sterilized.

How can I sign my patients up for the BE SMART program?

Individuals interested in applying may get an application from their local DSS, health department or on-line at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma>. The completed application must be returned to their local DSS.

Where can I get educational information for my patients about the BE SMART program?

For a set of educational materials about the waiver, call the N.C. Family Health Resource Line, 1-800-367-2229. To order multiple copies, call the N.C. Healthy Start Foundation, 1-919-828-1819.

Who do I call if I have questions about the BE SMART program?

For more information about this special Medicaid program, please visit North Carolina’s Medicaid website at <http://www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dma/prog.htm>

The BE SMART program will end October 1, 2010 unless extended by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid.